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# *Putt-Putt Joins the Circus*

***Putt-Putt Joins the Circus*** is a 2000 point-and-click adventure game developed and published by Humongous Entertainment under its Junior Adventures label. In the game, Putt-Putt must help the five performers of B.J. Sweeney's Big Top Circus prepare for a show.

The game is the sixth installment in the *Putt-Putt* series, being preceded by *Putt-Putt Enters the Race* in 1999 and followed by *Putt-Putt: Pep's Birthday Surprise* in 2003.

The game was released on July 11, 2000 for Microsoft Windows and Macintosh OS. It has since been re-released on Steam and ported to Linux, iOS, and Android.

***Putt-Putt Joins the Circus***

2002 cover art

| | |
|---|---|
| **Developer** | Humongous Entertainment |
| **Publisher** | Humongous Entertainment[a] |
| **Programmer** | Brian Pulliam |
| **Artist** | Edward Pun |
| **Composer** | Scott Lloyd Shelly |
| **Series** | *Putt-Putt* |
| **Engine** | SCUMM |
| **Platforms** | Macintosh, Windows, iOS, Linux |
| **Release** | **Macintosh, Windows**<br>July 11, 2000[1]<br>**iOS**<br>October 4, 2013<br>**Linux**<br>May 29, 2014[2] |
| **Genre** | Adventure |
| **Mode** | Single-player |

## Plot

Putt-Putt and Pep are traveling to Apple Valley to see B.J. Sweeney's Big Top Circus. On the way, they find a hungry goat blocking the road to Apple Valley, as well as the train tracks where a train named Roll-Along Cassidy is trying to deliver sawdust to the circus. Putt-Putt coaxes the goat off of the tracks with a flower bush, but the goat eats his circus ticket afterwards. Realizing their predicament, Cassidy decides to give Putt-Putt and Pep a ride to the circus, saying that B.J. Sweeney might be able to help them.

Upon arriving at the circus, Putt-Putt learns from B.J. that all of the circus' acts are having problems. He shows Putt-Putt a piece of paper, showing the performers of the five main performers: Honko the Clown, The Flying Porkowskis, Phillipe the Flea, Reginald the Lion and Katie Cannonball. Putt-Putt volunteers to help around the circus, which Sweeny agrees to.

After Putt-Putt helps all the acts, B.J. Sweeney rewards Putt-Putt by letting him perform in the circus. At the end, Putt-Putt presses a button that opens a curtain, and all the five main circus stars perform their tricks, ending the game.

# Gameplay

*Putt-Putt Joins the Circus* uses the same mechanics as its predecessors including Putt-Putt's dashboard interface and some minigames included. Throughout the game the player must solve characters' problems and unite all five circus actors.

# Development

All backgrounds, characters and animations were hand drawn.[3] Between May 11 and 13, 2000, the game had debuted at E3 in Los Angeles.[3]

# Reception

## Critical reception

*Putt-Putt Joins the Circus* was well received and earned a number of awards around its year of release.

## Commercial performance

During the year 2001 alone, *Putt-Putt Joins the Circus* sold 82,400 retail units in North America, according to PC Data.[6]

**Reception**

| Review score | |
|---|---|
| **Publication** | **Score** |
| *PC Magazine* | 4/5[4] |
| Awards | |
| **Publication** | **Award** |
| **Dr. Toy, Institute for Childhood Resources** | 10 Best Software/CD-ROM/High-Tech Products for 2000[5] |
| **Dr. Toy, Institute for Childhood Resources** | 100 Best Children's Products for 2000[5] |
| **National Parenting Publications Awards** | Gold Award[5] |
| **Parent's Guide** | Children's Media Award[5] |
| **Children's Software Revue** | All Star Software Award[5] |
| **Choosing Children's Software** | Best Picks Award[5] |

# References


1. "Putt-Putt® Joins the Circus™ from Humongous Entertainment® Offers Big Top Fun for Children of All Ages" (https://web.archive.org/web/20001120151400/http://humongous.com/parents/Pr/More/News/putt_putt_circus_contest.html) (Press release). Humongous Entertainment. July 11, 2000. Archived from the original (http://humongous.com/parents/Pr/More/News/putt_putt_circus_contest.html) on November 20, 2000.
2. "Putt-Putt Joins the Circus on Steam" (https://store.steampowered.com/app/294690/PuttPutt_Joins_the_Circus/). Steam. Retrieved November 8, 2017.

3. "Latest Adventure Starring Everyone's Favorite Purple Car Available in June" (https://web.archive.org/web/20001120142200/http://humongous.com/parents/Pr/More/News/putt_putt_circus.html). *Humongous Entertainment - News*. 2000. Archived from the original on November 20, 2000. Retrieved November 8, 2017.
4. Angela Graven (October 3, 2000). "Angela Graven reviews Putt-Putt Joins the Circus" (https://books.google.com/books?id=Jbft8HXJZwQC&q=%22Putt-Putt+Joins+the+Circus%22&pg=PA230). PC Magazine. Retrieved November 8, 2017.
5. "*Putt-Putt Joins the Circus* - Awards" (https://web.archive.org/web/20010418050809/http://www.humongous.com/asp/character.asp?pageWord=Putt&content=GameAwards&productID=04-19983). Humongous Entertainment. Archived from the original (http://www.humongous.com:80/asp/character.asp?pageWord=Putt&content=GameAwards&productID=04-19983) on April 18, 2001. Retrieved November 8, 2017.
6. Sluganski, Randy (March 2002). "State of Adventure Gaming - March 2002 - 2001 Sales Table" (https://web.archive.org/web/20020619111456/http://www.justadventure.com/articles/State_of_Adventure_Gaming/Mar-02/sales2001.shtm). *Just Adventure*. Archived from the original (http://www.justadventure.com:80/articles/State_of_Adventure_Gaming/Mar-02/sales2001.shtm) on June 19, 2002. Retrieved May 13, 2020.

a. The iOS release was published by Tommo. The Steam release was co-published by Tommo and Night Dive Studios.

# External links

- *Putt-Putt Joins the Circus* (https://www.mobygames.com/game//putt-putt-joins-the-circus) at MobyGames
- *Putt-Putt Joins the Circus* at Humongous Entertainment (http://humongous.com/games/putt-putt-joins-the-circus/) Archived (https://web.archive.org/web/20171109041511/http://humongous.com/games/putt-putt-joins-the-circus/) 2017-11-09 at the Wayback Machine

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